

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 BIB-01

SCCT-01 /069 W

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P R 100954Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9522

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USEUCOM FOR POLAD

USAFC FOR POLAD

USAREUR FOR POLAD

UNCLAS FRANKFURT 1566

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJECT: RHEINLAND-PFALZ LANDTAG ELECTION RESULTS

REF: FRANKFURT 1406

1. CDU, SPD AND FDP ALL PROFESS, WITH SOME JUSTIFICATION, TO BE PLEASED WITH RESULTS OF MARCH 9 ELECTIONS FOR PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE (LANDTAG) IN RHEINLAND-PFALZ. CDU BOASTS THAT ITS 53.9 PERCENT (3.9 PERCENT MORE THAN 1971 LANDTAG ELECTIONS) IS BEST RESULT ACHIEVED BY ANY CDU ORGANIZATION IN LANDTAG ELECTION ANYWHERE IN FEDREP, COMAPRISON WHICH CONVENIENTLY LEAVES OUT BAVARIA. SPD WITH 38.5 PERCENT (TWO PERCENT LESS THAN 1971) AND FDP WITH 5.6 PERCENT (THREE-TENTHS PERCENT LESS) ARE PROUD THAT LOSSES SMALLER THAN IN RECENT ELECTIONS ELSEWHERE, UNCLASSIFIED

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INCLUDING RHEINLAND-PFALZ COMMUNAL ELECTIONS LAST YEAR.

HUNDRED LANDTAG SEATS ARE EXPECTED TO DIVIDE CDU 55  
(PLUS THREE), SPD 40 (MINUS TWO), AND FDP FIVE (MINUS  
ONE).

2. COMMENT: SINCE CDU GAINS NOT GREATER THAN ANTICIPATED  
BEFORE LORENZ KIDNAPPING, PARTY LEADERS NOW TAKING LINE  
THAT INCIDENT WORKED TO BENEFIT ALL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES  
BY MAKING ELECTORATE CONSCIOUS OF BALLOT PRIVILEGE.  
INDEED, VOTER TURNOUT OF 81 PERCENT (79.4 IN 1971) WAS  
GOOD FOR A LANDTAG ELECTION, ESPECIALLY ONE SO DEVOID  
OF INTRINSIC INTEREST. CONSENSUS OF EARLY, INFORMED  
COMMENT WAS THAT STRONG CDU PERFORMANCE STRENGTHENS  
MINISTER-PRESIDENT KOHL'S CLAIM TO CHANCELLOR NOMINATION  
BUT WAS NOT CONVINCING ENOUGH TO CLINCH IT FOR HIM  
ATTENTION WILL NOW TURN TO SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN ELECTION  
NEXT MONTH. FDP SURVIVED EXPERIMENT OF PRO-CDU  
COALITION PLEDGE, WHICH MANY OBSERVERS BELIEVE HELPED  
SPD. A STRIKING FEATURE OF RESULTS WAS THAT  
CDU GAINS AND SPD LOSSES GREATEST IN CITIES, WHERE  
UNEMPLOYMENT GREATER THREAT, WHILE SPD HELD OWN  
AND EVEN SCORED SOME GAINS IN RURAL, CATHOLIC AREAS.HARLAN

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## Message Attributes

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